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503.30414C19

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Filed: November 29, 2000

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING  
METHOD THEREFOR

jc860 U.S. PTO  
09/725257  
11/29/00

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 29, 2000

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a List of documents cited in connection with prior applications of the above-identified application. All of the listed documents were cited in parent application Serial No. 09/552,572, filed April 19, 2000; and the listed documents were first cited either in prior application Serial No. 09/552,572, filed April 19, 2000, or in one of the following listed applications:

- (1) Application Serial No. 09/461,432, filed December 16, 1999;
  - (2) Application Serial No. 09/177,495, filed October 23, 1998;
  - (3) Application Serial No. 09/061,062, filed April 16, 1998;
  - (4) Application Serial No. 07/751,951, filed August 29, 1991, now U.S. Patent No. 5,314,509, issued May 24, 1994;
  - (5) Application Serial No. 08/096,256, filed July 26, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,349,762, issued September 27, 1994;
  - (6) Application Serial No. 08/443,039, filed May 17, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,553,396, issued September 10, 1996;
  - (7) Application Serial No. 08/593,870, filed January 30, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,661,913, issued September 2, 1997;
- and

(8) Application Serial No. 08/882,731,  
filed June 26, 1997.

Since application Serial No. 09/552,572, as well as the remaining above-listed documents (1)-(8), are being relied upon under 35 USC 120 in the above-identified application, copies of the listed documents are not enclosed herewith.

Of the listed documents, attention is particularly directed to Japanese Patent Document No. 63-153270 and U.S. Patent No. 4,923,584. If the Examiner has any difficulty in obtaining copies of any of the listed documents, and in particular copies of Japanese Patent Document No. 63-153270 and/or U.S. Patent No. 4,923,584, including the English translation of the Japanese patent document, from any of the earlier U.S. patent applications upon which priority has been claimed 35 USC 120, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned who will substantially immediately provide the Examiner with copies of any necessary documents. The Examiner is thanked in advance for cooperating with this request.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-identified application. Accordingly, the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(b) are satisfied.

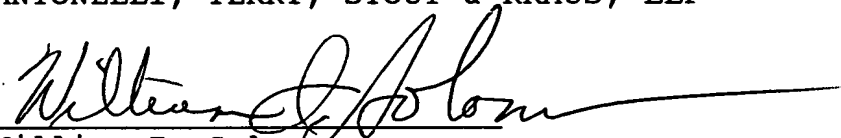
In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with the listed documents. Accordingly, consideration of the listed documents, upon examination of the above-identified

application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414C19) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WIS/slk  
Enclosures